

# BLACK SCIENCE

25

RICK REMENDER  
MATTEO SCALERA  
MORENO DINISIO



RENDER

## THE STORY SO FAR...

When Grant McKay, head of Anarchist League of Scientists, completed the Pillar Project, a device capable of punching through the barriers of reality and travel to alternate dimensions, he hoped this accomplishment would make up for a lifetime of regret and mistakes. He was wrong...

On its maiden voyage, the Pillar malfunctioned, jumping at random intervals, sending Grant, his team, and his two children Pia and Nate, spiraling through the Eververse, stranded in a chaotic maelstrom of infinitely potential alternate worlds.

Now, years after the Pillar's first catastrophic jump, Grant and his daughter Pia managed to find their home. Grant intended to leave his daughter safe with her mother and return to scouring the Eververse for signs of his son Nate.

But who greeted Pia at the door was not her mother Sara, but Kadir. Grant's longtime rival and onetime boss. Last she saw Kadir, Grant was plunging a sword into his chest, after having been tricked into thinking Kadir was threatening his team.

Grant, meanwhile, is ambushed near his Pillar ship by the security force of Mr. Block, CEO of Block Industries and lead investor of the Pillar Project. Block is overjoyed that Grant delivered this promising invention back into his hands. Grant is taken into custody, blamed for the disappearance of his son and daughter, and Block threatens Pia into keeping her silence.

The Anarchist League of Scientists is no more, and Block has the only working Pillar in existence...

**RICK REMENDER:** Writer • **MATTEO SCALERA:** Artist  
**MORENO DINISIO:** Colorist • **RUS WOOTON:** Letterer  
**SEBASTIAN GIRNER:** Editor

BLACK SCIENCE created by Rick Remender & Matteo Scalera

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A person with short blonde hair, wearing a white jumpsuit, is sitting cross-legged on a dark, reflective surface. They are in a room with walls and ceiling made of large, dark, crystalline or metallic panels that reflect light in a way that creates a complex, geometric pattern. The overall color palette is dark with highlights of light blue and white. The person's face is partially obscured by shadows.

LIVED MY ENTIRE  
LIFE FEELING ALONE.

A DISCONNECTED ALIEN  
DESTINED FOR ISOLATION.

HELL IS OTHER PEOPLE.  
SO I KEPT TO MYSELF.

FOCUSED ON MY PROJECTS.

EVENTUALLY, YOU GET  
USED TO BEING LONELY.

SIX MONTHS IN A ROOM  
ALONE MIGHT FUCK  
UP A NORMAL PERSON.  
BUT FOR ME...

...THIS IS NORMAL.

THE DOCTORS SAY  
I'M CRAZY, LIKE DAD.

THEY SAY I  
KILLED NATE.

HE'D BE NEARLY  
SIXTEEN BY NOW.  
IF HE'S ALIVE.

AT BEST NATE'S PAYING  
THE PRICE IN SOME  
OTHER DIMENSION,  
STRANDED FOR YEARS.

AND I'M STUCK IN HERE.

DON'T HAVE THE BRAINS TO  
BUILD ANOTHER PILLAR  
EVEN IF I COULD GET OUT.

I'VE LOST HIM.

AGAIN.

GOOD  
MORNING,  
MR. MCKAY.

NO THREATS  
OF VIOLENCE  
TODAY?

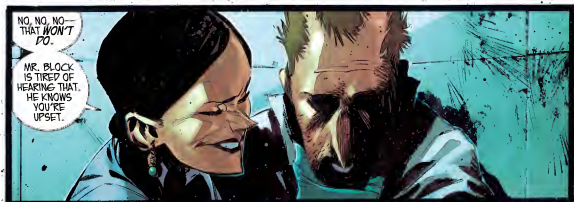
GOOD.

SEEMS WE'VE FINALLY  
SUBDUED YOUR ANGER.

SAVES  
EVERYONE  
A LOT OF  
TROUBLE.

YOU  
ESPECIALLY.

NOW THE  
HEALING CAN  
BEGIN.







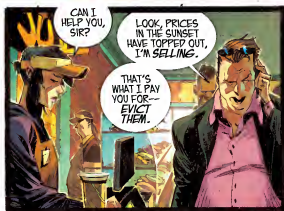
... I KNOW YOU'LL  
MAKE THE **SMART**  
CHOICE.

TENANTS'  
FEELINGS DON'T  
MAKE A BIT OF  
**FUCKING**  
DIFFERENCE  
TO ME—

WE'VE  
ALREADY  
GONE OVER  
THIS.

WHAT CAN  
I GET FOR  
YOU?

AM I SUPPOSED  
TO LOSE MONEY  
BECAUSE THESE  
LOSERS USED THEIR  
BOOTSTRAPS TO  
TIE OFF?



CAN I  
HELP YOU,  
SIR?

LOOK, PRICES  
IN THE SUNSET  
HAVE TOPPED OUT,  
I'M SELLING.

THAT'S  
WHAT I PAY  
YOU FOR—  
EVICT  
THEM.



**FUCKHEAD!**

YOU'VE REACHED THE POINT OF  
THE LINE WHERE YOU ORDER  
YOUR DRINK!

CAN YOU TAKE  
A BREAK FROM BEING  
A PIECE OF SHIT SO I  
CAN GET YOU A TEN-  
DOLLAR CUP OF JUICE?!



**FUCK THIS  
PLACE.**

ENJOY YOUR SHITTY  
JOB, **BOTTOM  
FEEDER.**

JESUS,  
PIA, WHAT  
WAS  
THAT?



THIS CITY HAS  
BEEN TAKEN  
OVER BY THAT  
GUY.

I CAN'T CHANGE IT, BUT  
I SURE AS **SHIT** DON'T HAVE  
TO ALLOW HIM TO STEAL MY  
DIGNITY BY MAKING ME  
WAIT TO TAKE HIS  
ORDER.

I DON'T  
CARE **HOW** YOU  
FEEL ABOUT OUR  
CLIENTELE—



"HER DAD'S A PSYCHO."

"HE REALLY MESSED HER UP."







RISE  
AND SHINE,  
BALLBAG.



YOU GOT A  
VISITOR.

HMMH?



DON'T RIGHTLY  
KNOW WHY ANYONE  
WOULD WASTE TIME  
ON A **DIRTBAG**  
LIKE YOU.

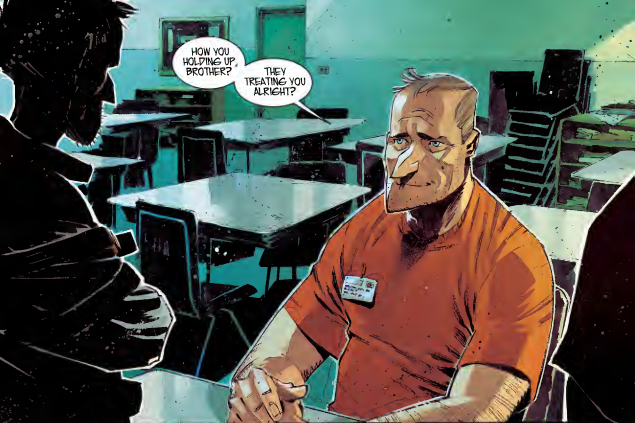
CRAZY OR NOT—  
WE'RE ALL JUST  
ITCHIN' FOR A  
CHANCE TO LAY  
INTO YOU.



WATCH WHAT YOU SAY.  
DON'T PUT ANYONE  
ELSE IN DANGER.



KEEP YOUR  
FUCKIN'  
MANNERS IN  
THERE.



HOW YOU  
HOLDING UP,  
BROTHER?

THEY  
TREATING YOU  
ALRIGHT?



BETTER THAN HE  
DESERVES.

YOU MIND  
FUCKING  
OFF, TUBS?

NICE.  
GUESS  
"ASSHOLE"  
RUNS IN THE  
FAMILY.



YOU SHOULDN'T  
COME HERE, BRIAN.  
IT'S NOT SAFE.

THEY SURE  
DON'T MAKE  
VISITS  
EASY.

PROBABLY  
WHY FIA AND  
SARA HAVEN'T  
COME IN.



YEAH...  
PROBABLY.



HAD  
LUNCH WITH  
THEM LAST  
WEEK.

THEY'RE  
DOING WELL.

ALL THINGS  
CONSIDERED.



LET'S JUST  
GET THROUGH  
THE PART  
WHERE YOU ASK  
ME, BRIAN.



\*...I CAN'T TELL YOU.\*



HAVE YOU BEEN ASLEEP ALL DAY?

YOU'VE BEEN MIXING THE PILLS WITH WINE AGAIN.

HMM?

PLEASE, YOU CAN'T DO THAT, IT'S DANGEROUS.



I'M SORRY, PIA, I KNOW... IT'S JUST... IT'S BEEN A BAD WEEK.

CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT NATE.

YOU KNOW THE THINGS THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT DAD—



DON'T. JUST... I KNOW HE DID A NUMBER ON YOU, BUT PLEASE STOP DEFENDING HIM.

IN FACT, STOP MENTIONING HIM AT ALL.



YOU NEED TO ACCEPT WHAT HE DID.

ACCEPT THAT NATE... NATE IS...



NO, MOM, GODDAMN IT.

IT'S COMPLICATED. DAD... HE...

HE WHAT?

WHAT AREN'T YOU TELLING ME?!

HEY HEY!





TONIGHT'S  
THE BIG  
NIGHT! WHO'S  
EXCITED?

...

WHAT?

WHY  
THE LONG  
FACES?



SARA, I TOLD YOU  
WE'D BE LEAVING  
IN AN HOUR. WHY  
AREN'T YOU—

YOU'LL HAVE  
TO FORGIVE US  
FOR NOT BEING  
IN THE MOOD TO  
CELEBRATE  
YOU, KADIR.



PIA, YOU'RE  
UPSETTING  
YOUR  
MOTHER.

AGAIN.

WOULD YOU  
PLEASE COME  
HELP ME PICK  
OUT HER  
DRESS?



DO YOU  
THINK THIS  
HELPS?

YOU KNOW  
WHAT HE'LL DO  
TO ALL OF US IF  
YOU TELL HER  
THE TRUTH.

SEEMS  
LIKE IT'S ALL  
WORKING  
OUT JUST FINE  
FOR YOU.

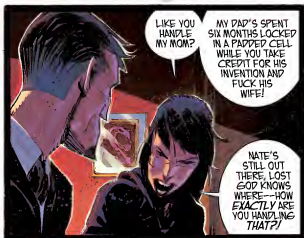
YOU GET  
MY MOTHER  
A NEW HOUSE,  
FAME,  
AWARDS...



YOU CAN'T  
UNDERSTAND  
WHAT'S GOING  
ON HERE.

WHAT I'M  
TRYING  
TO DO.

JUST...  
PLEASE  
JUST LET  
ME HANDLE  
THIS.



LIKE YOU  
HANDLE  
MY MOM?

MY DAD'S SPENT  
SIX MONTHS LOCKED  
IN A PADDED CELL  
WHILE YOU TAKE  
CREDIT FOR HIS  
INVENTION AND  
FUCK HIS  
WIFE!

NATE'S  
STILL OUT  
THERE. LOST  
GOD KNOWS  
WHERE—HOW  
EXACTLY ARE  
YOU HANDLING  
THAT?!





"...AND THINGS ARE MUCH BETTER WHEN HE IS."

SIX PERFECT TITLES!

I MEAN, THAT'S THE DIMENSION I BELONG IN, HANK.

SHIT, IF YA'LL HADN'T DRAGGED ME OUT I'D HAVE NEVER LEFT.

HAR--WE ALL FIGURED YOU WERE JUST HOPING TO FIND OUT IF THE PUDS THERE HAD SIX PERFECT DICKS.

YEAH, JUST LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT PLACE FOR YOUR DAD TO RETIRE.

QUITE A HAUL!

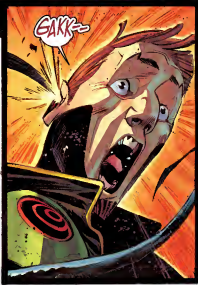
YES, SIR, WE MANAGED TO HIT OVER FORTY DIMENSIONS AND GATHER SAMPLES FROM EACH.

THAT LAST ONE WAS A REAL TREAT, SIR.

WHAT HAS YOUR JAUNT UNCOVERED, MR. PETERSON?

FOUND SOMETHING I THINK YOU'LL LOVE.









I WILL FEAST  
ON THE FACES  
OF YOUR DEAD  
MOTHERS.



YOUR WORLD  
WILL FESTER IN  
THE POLLUTION  
OF MY EVIL.

IS IT  
CONTAINED  
IN THERE,  
MR. TOTTEN?

I RECOMMEND  
WE INCINERATE  
AND VENT THE  
ROOM TO BE  
SAFE---

THAT  
ISN'T WHAT  
I ASKED.



YOU WILL  
DROWN IN  
RIVERS OF YOUR  
CHILDREN'S  
BLOOD.

YES SIR, I--I CAN'T  
SAY FOR SURE,  
PROBABLY IT'S  
CONTAINED,  
BUT---



GOOD. HAVE  
MY SUIT FOR  
TONIGHT'S GALA  
BROUGHT TO  
MY ROOM,  
TOTTEN.

I NEED  
TO REHEARSE  
MY SPEECH.



OPEN THE  
GRATES AND  
STORE OUR NEW  
PET IN THE LOWER  
CONTAINMENT  
CELL.

AND BRING  
IN ONE OF THE  
ANCILLARY TEAMS  
TO MAN THE PILLAR  
IMMEDIATELY...





"...I WILL NOT HAVE US FALLING BEHIND SCHEDULE."

SO REST ASSURED THAT BLOCK INDUSTRIES MAINTAINS A STRONG COMMITMENT TOWARDS OUR INVESTORS.

WITHOUT YOUR FAITH AND FUNDING, NONE OF OUR MAGNIFICENT INNOVATIONS WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE.



INNOVATIONS THAT HAVE REWOUND CLIMATE CHANGE, GIVEN US CLEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY, AND COUNTLESS TECHNOLOGIES THAT HAVE ENSURED OUR GREAT NATION'S CONTINUED ECONOMIC DOMINATION.

AND WE'RE ONLY GETTING STARTED.



ALLOW ME TO GET TO THE GRAND UNVEILING YOU WERE ALL PROMISED.

A SIMPLE-LOOKING DEVICE, YES?



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN I PRESENT YOU WITH THE CURE FOR ALL CANCERS!



A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR THE MAN, THE MIND, BEHIND ALL OF BLOCK'S NEW DEVELOPMENTS--



KADIR ASLAN!

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

CONGRATULATIONS,  
DEAR.



ALL OF  
YOUR HARD  
WORK, IT'S JUST  
INCREDIBLE.

YOU'VE  
CHANGED THE  
ENTIRE  
WORLD, KADIR.  
REALLY.

YEAH,  
I-HIT WASN'T  
ALL ME...



MR. BLOCK IS  
JUST BEING  
GENEROUS.

YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO PLAY  
HUMBLE. NOT  
TODAY. YOU'VE  
SAVED THE WORLD.

ENJOY  
THIS.



PIA, MY  
DEAR GIRL,  
AS RADIANT  
AS EVER!



NOW I KNOW THIS HAS BEEN A DIFFICULT  
PERIOD FOR YOU, BUT I ALSO KNOW THAT  
YOU'VE DONE AN EXEMPLARY JOB  
KEEPING YOUR SIDE OF  
OUR AGREEMENT.

WHAT  
ARE MY  
OPTIONS?

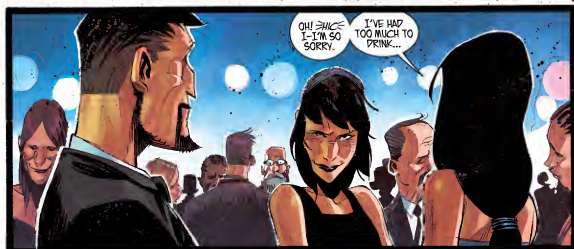
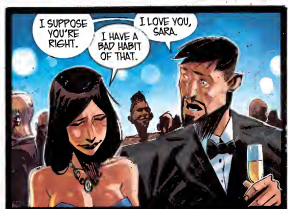
JUST  
ONE,  
REALLY.



BUT PERHAPS  
THIS WILL  
LESSEN THE  
STING.

YOUR FIRST  
TASTE OF THE  
PROFITS FROM  
OUR NEW  
MIRACLE  
CURE.











WHAT  
DO YOU  
WANT?

I JUST  
WANTED  
TO TELL YOU  
SOMETHING.

YOU  
STABBING  
ME IN THE CHEST  
WAS THE BEST  
THING THAT EVER  
HAPPENED TO ME.



GOT ME EVERYTHING  
I EVER WANTED.

WHEN THE  
PILLAR JUMPED,  
IT SENT ME BACK  
HOME.

SHAWN  
CHANGED  
THE DESTINATION  
COORDINATES.



BEFORE  
YOUR MISTRESS  
BASHED HIS  
HEAD IN WITH  
A WRENCH.



BUT THAT'S  
NOT YOUR  
FAULT EITHER, IS  
IT? HOW COULD  
YOU HAVE KNOWN,  
RIGHT?

AFTER I'D  
SPENT WEEKS  
RISKING MY LIFE  
TO DEFEND YOUR  
FAMILY AND YOUR  
CREW, YOU TRIED  
TO KILL ME.



TO DEFEND THE  
WOMAN WHO  
MURDERED YOUR  
PROTEGE.

DO YOU HEAR ALL  
THAT AND STILL  
THINK YOU'RE THE  
HERO IN THIS  
STORY?

IS YOUR  
NARCISSISM  
THAT  
POWERFUL?



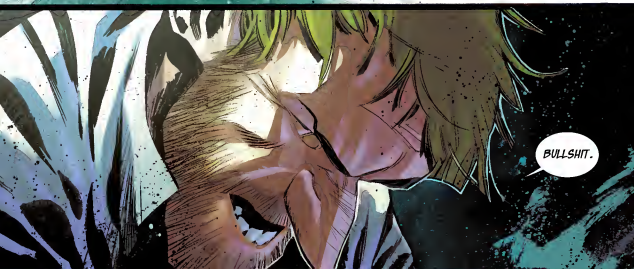
SARA, THAT  
WAS THE FIRST  
FACE I SAW--  
BEAUTIFUL SARA  
SITTING BY MY  
HOSPITAL BED.

I THOUGHT  
I'D GONE  
TO HEAVEN.

REALLY.

THAT WAS  
THE FIRST THING  
THAT WENT  
THROUGH MY HEAD.





YOU  
MURDERED  
HER SON.

I REMIND  
HER EVERY  
DAY.

YOU--

SON  
OF A  
BITCH!

YOU LIKE  
TO SUCKER  
PUNCH.

TRYING  
TO HIT A  
MAN IN THE  
BACK.

BECAUSE  
YOU'RE A WEAK  
COWARD.

STABBING A MAN  
FOR PROTECTING  
YOUR KIDS.

IN A FAIR  
FIGHT YOU  
WOULDN'T LAST  
A MINUTE.

YOU'LL  
APPRECIATE  
THIS...

...THIS ISN'T  
GOING TO  
BE A FAIR  
FIGHT.



HE'S RIGHT.



IT'S WHAT I  
DESERVE.



BEING SMART...



...MEANS KNOWING  
WHEN YOU'VE BEEN  
STUPID.



TRIED TO  
USE EVIL  
TO DO  
GOOD.

WORKING FOR A  
BAD PERSON.



THE KIND WHO'D MAKE  
EVERYONE POOR.



JUST SO HE  
COULD BE  
RICH.



TAKE ALL OF THE  
HAPPINESS FOR  
HIMSELF



AND LEAVE NONE  
FOR ANYONE ELSE.



AND I GAVE  
HIM A KEY...



TO  
ANYTHING  
HE CAN  
WAGNE.



AND I OWE THE WHOLE  
WORLD AN APOLOGY.

FOR BEING SO  
FUCKING STUPID.

# B L A C K S W I M E



Here we are then! **25 issues of BLACK SCIENCE!** 25 issues of barreling through alternate realities, unlimited possibilities, frog monsters, living god planets, sci-fi mindwarp, and good crunchy drama.

25 issues of watching a man try to do the right thing, keep his family together and his soul from getting dragged down by all his sins. Grant has come a long way, but is he really better off? Landed in a padded cell, drugged out of his gourd, his family gone, the world convinced he's a monster, getting wailed on by a man he's despised his whole life? How much of this is Grant's own fault, and how much can he still do to turn the tide? 25 issues in, and we still have so much more story to tell.

When Rick called me up in the summer of 2012 and asked if I wanted to help him work on a new pulp sci-fi series, I didn't need to think twice. *Fear Agent* had already been a favorite of mine, and we had worked together on some crazy fun comics together over at Marvel. But what hooked me was the scope and scale of what Rick and his team were setting out to tackle with BLACK SCIENCE.

Here was a comic where literally anything could happen; the setting, narrative, and design possibilities were nearly endless. A comic unbound by the market's sometimes puzzling requirement to feel "grounded" and "realistic" when a double-wide splash of alien ghost-possessed mad monkey scientists just seems like a much better use of those pages.

Visually BLACK SCIENCE set out to reignite the parts of the comic reader's brain that too often are asked to lay dormant. To delight, shock, and excite readers with new and weird creatures, concepts, and worlds straight from the hand of one of the most savagely talented and hard working young artists of our time. For 25 issues now Matteo Scalera, together with first Dean White and now Moreno Dinisio, has churned out page after page of jaw-dropping fantasy sci-fi adventure that still manages to capture every subtle character beat, every raised eyebrow and sinister smirk.

Because at its core BLACK SCIENCE is a "grounded" and "realistic" story. A story about the struggles of raising a family, about the difficulty of staying true to your ideals when a world of responsibility is bearing down on your shoulders. About what happens when opportunity, guilt, and anger all come together at a time when fate presents you with a singular opportunity, one which you can see fanning out into a web of countless different outcomes, both victories and tragedies. All that is dangling from the tip of a single decision you now stand poised to make.

What path do you choose? And how do you live with the consequences?

25 issues later, and we're still exploring those questions and probing those answers. And at a milestone issue like this, we would like to take the time once again to thank each and every one of our readers for sticking with us and supporting the series over the last four years. It's no small thing to have as attentive and loyal an audience as we've been blessed with. So thank you thank you thank you from all of us.

If where we left off Grant, Pia, Kadir, Sara, Nate, Mr. Block, and all the rest of our cast and crew in this issue has you aching to find out where the story goes from here, you're in luck! Because we've been working overtime to cut down the gap between story arcs, and we'll be back in just ONE month with BLACK SCIENCE #26! Look for it in stores December 7th!

Until December then! Here's to 25 issues in the can, and to the mad, crazy, wild, and exciting future of BLACK SCIENCE.

Cheers,  
SG



The thing you hate most holds your only hope.



**RICK REMENDER, JEROME OPEÑA, & MATT HOLLINGSWORTH** reteam to bring you the story of ADAM OSIDIS, a dying knight from a disgraced house, who must rid his world of an insidious God who has the power to give Adam everything his heart desires.

All men have surrendered their freedom for fear. The last free man must now choose.

RICK REMENDER & JEROME OPEÑA IN COLLABORATION WITH IMAGE COMICS PRESENT

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# REBORN™

MARK MILLAR

GREG CAPULLO

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heaven when we die.

We come here.

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adventure series  
of all time.

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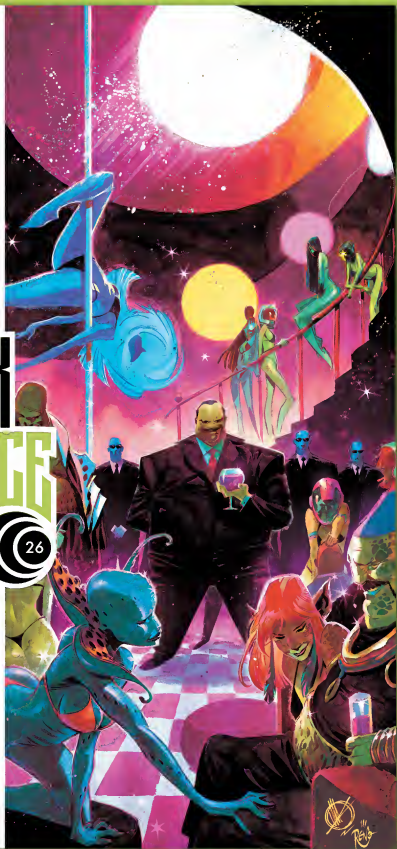
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